THE WORLD.

NUMBER LXXVII.

By *ADAM FITZ-ADAM.*

To be continued every THURSDAY.

THURSDAY, *June* the 20th, 1754.

To Mr. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

I AM the daughter (I will not ſay of a gentleman, but) of one, who by a conſtant attention to gain, and many lucky circumſtances in life, from a very mean condition, arrived at the higheſt character of gentility amongſt his neighbours in a part of this iſland, where farmers are almoſt the only, and without diſpute, the proudeſt gentry. Being tolerably handſome, and a favourite child, I was ſent very early to a country boarding ſchool; and was allowed to bring from it ſome tendencies to elegance and politeneſs, rather exceeding thoſe that are generally acquired in ſuch places; and which, for want of a better name, I ſhall call a kind of half-good-breeding.

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THUS accompliſhed, you may imagine I ſoon had many admirers; but being young and unexperienced, I prudently left the choice of the happy man to my father's deciſion; which choice, after due caution, he made: but though exceeding notable himſelf, yet happening to engage with an old gentleman more notable, it is ſaid, and I believe with truth, that he was outwitted. In the holy eſtate of matrimony I lived a few years, without any thing to relieve the dulneſs and inſipidity of a huſband's converſation, but now and then a viſit from his relations, and a game at cards.

WHEN my widowhood commenced, then opened the ſcene. And though my jointure was not equal to the fortune my father had paid, yet having many good proſpects, the value of which I had learnt to calculate with great accuracy, I reſolved to regulate my conduct accordingly.

AND now it was that I engaged in the ſtrangeſt project that ever entered a whimſical woman's head. It was this; to collect all the moſt haughty and inſolent forms that I had ever heard to have been practiced in the rejection of lovers; to enter thoſe forms in my pocket-book; to get them by heart, and to uſe them occaſionally as circumſtances might admit: arguing with myſelf, that I ſhould haſten the ſucceſſion of lovers in proportion to the number of pretenders I baffled and diſcarded.

THE firſt who offered me his addreſſes in my new ſituation was Mr. Twiſt the mercer. He made his viſit in about two months after my huſband's deceaſe; and upon being ſhewn into my parlour, really ſurpriſed me with ſo ſtrange and ridiculous a figure of a man, that it was not without the utmoſt difficulty I was able to preſerve any compoſure of countenance. Pale, trembling, looking aſkance, and out of breath, he muttered over ſomething in broken words and half-ſentences, about "cruel delays——decencies——boldneſs——"and", at laſt "his ambition of being admitted my moſt "humble ſervant." Fixing my eyes full upon him, I anſwered "That I was very ſorry he ſhould come at ſo "unſeaſonable a time; for that I had no thoughts of "parting with my footman: but if he ſhould be out "of place when I had a vacancy, and would call again, "I might perhaps prefer him to my ſervice." The poor

poor man, unable to bear ſuch a ſhock, fell into the moſt violent diſtortions of face, and left me, with precipitation, to enjoy my triumph alone.

The next who honoured me with an application of the ſame kind, but without the ſame diſmal and rueful grimaces, was Mr. Frankly, an under officer in his Majeſty's cuſtoms. He approached me with a pretty good air, and with an eaſy unconſtrained utterance, declared, "That he had "been long charmed with the agreeableneſs of my "perſon and behaviour; that they had made the deep-"eſt impreſſions on his heart; and that he did not de-"ſpair of finding in my fair boſom ſomething ſuſcepti-"ble of the ſame tender and elegant ſentiments." Piqued and amazed at the confidence of the man, my memory and preſence of mind had almoſt failed me: but recovering in an inſtant, I made him a curteſy, and aſſured him "That, though he knew it not, I was "really the miſtreſs of that houſe; but that my maid "Mary was in the kitchen, who would no doubt be "highly pleaſed with ſo fine a ſpeech, which I hoped "he had got by heart, and would be as capable of re-"peating to his miſtreſs as he had been to me." I looked to ſee if my gentleman was not ſinking into the floor; but to my utter confuſion, he made me a low bow, and with a moſt ſignificant glance proteſted, "That he was become perfectly ſenſible of his miſtake, "and that his next viſit ſhould be to my maid; for "that it was impoſſible for Mrs. Mary to return an an-"ſwer to any thing he might ſay to her, ſo utterly de-"ſtitute of good ſenſe and good manners." As ſoon as he was gone I had recourſe to my pocket-book, croſſed out my two firſt common places, and wrote in the margin, "N. B. Too much alike, and not to uſe ei-"ther of them again on any account whatſoever."

My third inamorato was Mr. Smart, a young attorney, very ſpruce and very much a coxcomb. As he lived in the neighbourhood we had a ſlight acquaintance. One evening he came to my houſe, ſtayed ſupper, and after drinking a glaſs or two of wine, began a rapſody of nonſenſe about flames, darts, killing eyes, wounds and death. It is enough that I was able to comprehend his meaning; and therefore, putting on an air of ſerioufneſs and concern, I aſſured him "That

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" I was moſt prodigiouſly ſorry to ſee him ſo fluſtered; " I ſuppoſed that he had been drinking before he came " to my houſe; for otherwiſe it was impoſſible he ſhould " be diſguiſed to ſuch a degree. I hoped it was only " an accidental thing, and that he would take care not to " contract habits ſo extremely prejudicial to his character " and complexion." He looked ſo tame and fooliſh, that for the life of me I could not forbear purſuing my blow; and therefore ordering my ſervant to light him home, I recommended ſtrongly to him to clear his ſtomach with a quart or two of warm water before he went to reſt: and in the morning I ſent a card with compliments and enquiries after his health; hoping he was as well as could be expected after his laſt-night's irregularity. He kept my man two hours, and then returned me the following anſwer, fairly ingroſſed upon a clean queen of hearts.

" Mr. Smart's compliments to Mrs. G——, and " thanks for her kind meſſage. He ſhall not contend " that he is in his ſober wits: no, he is proud to own " himſelf drunk with the large draughts of love he has " drawn from her bright eyes."

THIS I thought was pretty enough; I therefore put the card betwen the proper pages in my book, and under the common place to which it related, wrote, " Memorandum, a good thing, and may do again " with a little variation."

MY fourth humble ſervant was doctor Scarfe, the miniſter of the pariſh. He was really a good ſort of a gentleman; and, to ſay the truth, I had for a long time played my artillery directly at him, as I imagined without ſucceſs, but not without a moſt vexatious chagrin at his ſeeming inſenſibility. However, when I leaſt expected any ſuch thing, I perceived I had conquered his ſtubborn heart: and then I reſolved to take ſome revenge for the trouble it had coſt me. His advice and aſſiſtance, which were uſeful to me in the management of my affairs, gave him a claim to a more frequent and familiar reception than I vouchſafed to any other male viſitant. One day, upon my thanking him in civil terms for a conſiderable ſervice he had done me, he haſtily interrupted me with, " Madam, you are too obliging; I " beg you to ſay nothing more upon the ſubject: 'tis I " am the indebted perſon; indebted for the favour of " your eſteem and confidence: I wiſh I could merit " them: to be able to give you the leaſt ſatisfaction is

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" the higheſt pleaſure of my life. You know in what " manner I have tranſacted theſe little matters: put " my zeal and ſincerity to a nobler teſt: allow me not " caſual, but continual occaſions of expreſſing, in a ten- " derer way, my regard to your intereſts, my affection " to your perſon, which is dearer to me than all the " intereſt upon earth." " Why now, doctor, ſays I, " what I have long dreaded is, I find, come to paſs. " I have often deſired you to uſe more exerciſe, and " not to ſit perpetually poring upon books. The in- " tenſeneſs of your ſtudies has impared your underſtand- " ing: and all I can do at preſent is to adviſe you to go " directly home, and take a little ſomething for your " head. If you neglect your diſorder, you will ſoon " be ſubject to more violent ravings." " Madam, he " replied, I ſee you are diſpoſed to make merry with " my pain: I did not expect ſuch treatment at your " hands: but I heartily wiſh you a good night." The deliberation with which he ſpoke, fully convinced me that I had loſt both a lover and a friend: and the re- flection on my folly filled me with ſhame. However, I concealed it as well as I could, and wrote in my pocket- book, under this common place, *N. B. Not to be re- peated.*

It would make a hiſtory, Mr. Fitz-Adam, inſtead of a letter, to relate all my atchievements this way. In ſhort, my character became in time ſo extraordinary and formidable, that I remember to have ſeen but three lovers in the laſt ſeven years, and two of the three were gentlemen from Ireland.

It is owing to this timidity in the men, that I trouble you with this letter, and deſire it's publication. They have no doubt imagined from my behaviour that I have made a vow againſt marriage; but whatever my in- tentions may be, I can aſſure them I have made no ſuch vow: and if any gentleman under forty——But I am not advertiſing for a huſband neither; yet for fear you ſhould think ſo, it is high time to take my leave, by ſubſcribing myſelf, Sir,

Your moſt humble ſervant, A. G.

I have complied with this lady's requeſt in publiſh- ing her letter, and ſhall recommend to her peruſal the following ſong, which I received a few days ago from an unknown correſpondent.

Song.